

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Applicants amend claim 1 for clarification, and refer to page 4, 5-12 of the specification; and Figs. 12, 13, 14A-D, and their corresponding description in the specification for exemplary embodiments of and support for the amendments to claim 1. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner acknowledged consideration of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS"), filed concurrently with the application, in the first Office Action dated February 26, 2004. Applicants did not receive, however, a signed copy of the PTO-1449 form corresponding to the IDS. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner forward a signed copy of the PTO-1449 form denoting consideration of the listed reference.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,771,596 to Angle et al. Applicants amend claim 1 in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited reference. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner relied upon the description of a fabric configuration manager 110 in Angle et al. that includes independent unicast and multicast schedulers as alleged disclosure of the features of the claimed "scheduler section." The cited portions of Angle et al.—col. 5, lines 1-10, 30-50; col. 6, lines 37-51; col. 16, lines 42-62 ; and Fig. 2 (107, 120)—describe unicast and multicast schedule processing using control information generated by the fabric configuration manager 110. Col. 6, lines 40-51 of Angle et al. The cited portions further describe parallel unicast and multicast scheduling facilitated by "pipeline staging of unicast and multicast scheduling." Col. 16, lines 48-49 of Angle et al. Please see, e.g., Fig. 10A of Angle et al. As

such, the cited portions do not disclose excluding any destination output lines of multicast packets from a target of conflict control in a scheduling process for the multicast packets.

Therefore, Angle et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, fail to disclose,

"N input buffer sections, provided for respective N input lines, for storing unicast packets and multicast packets input through corresponding input lines;

a switch section for outputting a unicast packet to any of M output lines to which the unicast packet is transmitted when the unicast packet is input from each of the N input buffer sections, and outputting the multicast packet to a plurality of M output lines to which the multicast packet is to be transmitted when the multicast packet is input; and

a scheduler section for selecting the unicast packet or the multicast packet to be output from each of said N input buffers such that the input lines and the output lines cannot conflict each other for the unicast packet, and such that the input lines cannot conflict each other for the multicast packet, wherein

the scheduler section excludes a plurality of destination output lines of the multicast packets from a target of conflict control in a scheduling process for the multicast packets performed by the scheduler section," as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, together with claims 2-10 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Angle et al. for at least the above-stated reasons.

The above statements on the disclosure in the cited reference represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

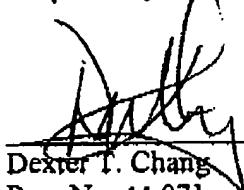
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that the additional U.S. patent and publication made of record, but not applied, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable, whether these references are considered alone or in combination with others.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider

this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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